

GORDON STRONG OFFERS A HOME TO SHIP ORPHANS

Fairyland on Maryland Farm Is
Open to Boys Who Lost
Kin in Disaster.

The sinking of the Eastland may prove a blessing for one or two little boys whose parents went to their deaths in Chicago's worst disaster. Away off in Maryland, not far from the great white dome of the nation's capital, a boys' fairyland awaits them—a fairyland described by its "godfather" as containing everything a real American boy could desire that is good for him, "from a porcelain bathtub to a mountain."

Seven sturdy youngsters already are here awaiting the arrival of these new playmates, as yet not named. Their "godfather" yesterday appealed to THE TRIBUNE by letter to aid him in finding them. The only requirements are that they be of good American stock, between the ages of 5 and 8; and if none of the little Eastland orphans meet these requirements any other deserving orphaned children will be given the same opportunity.

Gordon Strong Makes Offer.

The letter was written by Gordon Strong, wealthy Chicago real-estate man, who in 1912 instituted a philanthropy unique in American education when he established the Maryland farm thirty miles from Washington as a home, playground, school, and character building institution for deserving boys.

"It has occurred to me there might be one or more cases of young boys who have lost their parents through the Eastland disaster and who have no other relatives in position to give them adequate support and education," the letter reads. "It has further occurred to me that, owing to the active connection of THE TRIBUNE in the relief work, some such cases might be brought to your attention. I should appreciate it greatly if, in such event, you would kindly put me in touch with them."

Explains His Plan for Boys.

"And why not?" Mr. Strong demanded last night, explaining his plan. "My object primarily is character building. The boys learn reading, writing, and arithmetic in a public school on the farm. The intensive education they receive is supplementary. So far as the development of individuality is concerned, I expect to prove the dominant influence in the boys' lives."

"Education in its general interpretation—the transmission of knowledge—is as old as history. Only recently have educators come to realize that education of this sort is not sufficient. My theory is that if the boy's character can be properly developed his education will take care of itself. If we can make an Abraham Lincoln of him it won't make any difference whether he can read or write or not—he'll get it overnight."

Wants a Faster Clip.

"The average person, figuratively, travels at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour. The men we hear about—the real successes—go at forty or fifty miles an hour. If in proper condition and with proper training we ought to be able to make a hundred miles an hour. There is the whole thing in a nutshell. My object is to make life-sized men—men who will 'go' when we turn them loose."

"Although I have full control over the boys," said Mr. Strong, "I do not assume any legal responsibility for them. I encourage them to keep in touch with their parents or relatives. In their education and upbringing, however, it is as if they were my own boys."

Mr. Strong's business address is The Republic, 165 South State street. He insists that future presidents—or their guardians—shall apply only in writing.

Gordon Strong Offers A Home To Ship Orphans

Clipped By:
C_St_Reed
Invalid Date